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prevalent in Danish grammatical literature since the days of Rask, which has led the author to substitute Danish grammatical terms for those internationally accepted. It is really too bothersome when, in reading a grammatical work, one has to ponder about the meaning of every fifth or tenth word.

To return to Poestion's grammars,—they can be thoroughly recommended to everybody who wants an exhaustive and reliable treatment of the Scandinavian languages, and it is worth mentioning that at the University of Upsala Poestion's Danish and Norwegian grammars have been accepted as the standard books to be used in preparing for the M.A. degree in the respective languages.

P. GROTH.

NEW YORK CITY.

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*Alf Torp and Hjalmar Falk. Dansk-Norskens Lydhistorie, med særligt hensyn paa orddannelse og böining. Christiania, 1898. 267 p. 8vo.*

THE very title of this book supports my assertion in the foregoing review, that Norwegian grammarians of the present day are very careful not to say 'Norwegian' when they mean 'Dano-Norwegian.' The present book is the outcome of a series of lectures recently delivered by Professor Torp at the University of Christiania, afterwards revised and published by the author together with his colleague Professor Falk, of the same University. The book takes its point of departure in the Old Danish language, and shows the development of the present Dano-Norwegian sounds from that source; still, a good many phenomena are explained by reference to earlier stages of the development, not only within the Germanic languages, but in the whole Indo-European family of languages.

I have my doubts whether the authors have always caught and rendered the present Norwegian sounds correctly: so for instance on page 50 they indicate a short æ in *lærling*; to me the æ in this case is decidedly long: and I have never heard *laante* (page 53) short, nor *bådsmand* long, instead of *Båasmand* (short å-sound).

On page 83 we have an interesting example of the extent to which the English construction of making the indirect object

of the active verb the subject of the passive has become usual in Dano-Norwegian (N. B. I do not by calling it the 'English' construction mean to say that this construction has come from English to Dano-Norwegian, although the English usage may have exerted some influence); the authors, two philological professors, without having the slightest sense of its being a sin against good grammar quote an example: *han blev budt en stor sum*,—he was offered a large amount, instead of *der blev budt ham en stor sum*. Upon the whole it must be said, that the language of the authors cannot serve as an example for those for whom the book is intended (language teachers in the secondary schools and also in the public schools); it may be that I, on account of my protracted absence from home, have lost touch with the development of the language, but I confess I do not enjoy forms like *omlydede*, *omlydedes*, etc., of an entirely new active verb *omlyde*, probably formed analogously with the German *umlauten*, nor do I like *fortonig stavelse*, meaning a syllable in front of the stressed one.

On page 151 it seems as if the authors have been more guided by the letter than by the sound when they, after having stated a rarely occurring change from *o* to *a* in Norwegian words say: 'in the same manner Eng. *o* is rendered by *a* in some words as *sjap* from Eng. *shop* et al.'

The book explains the sound developments of the present Dano-Norwegian language by a fulness of examples, and it is made very handy as a repertory for the student by a complete index of all the words spoken of in the text. The book is the first of its kind in Dano-Norwegian literature, and being written by two very competent men and up to the standard of modern science, it is exceedingly welcome. But a book that is still to be written, which we hope some Norwegian linguist will take up soon, is an exhaustive and detailed study and statement of the gradual development from the Norwegian language of the 13th and 14th century to the Danish language in use in Norway in the 16th century. Such a book would be of the highest interest, also for the reason that it would throw a light upon the language tendencies in a different direction in Norway of the present day.

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